

## **INTRODUCTION BY THE EURASLIC PRESIDENT**

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On behalf of Euraslic I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our colleagues from Iamslic, and to other participants who have travelled from further afield, to attend this second Joint Conference of Iamslic and Euraslic in Europe.

On behalf of Euraslic my thanks go to all those who have been involved in the preparations for this Joint Conference, and I extend special thanks to Susan Berteaux of Iamslic and Marthe Melguen of Ifremer whose considerable efforts are now finally coming to fruition.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Pissierssens and the IOC for their continued support of Euraslic and for once again providing sponsorship for Euraslic nominated participants.

All of our lives are dominated by technology. We cannot escape from email, the internet, the world wide web; but whilst the papers and sessions at this conference almost all focus on some type or aspect of technology, let us also try and put technology aside for a few days and TALK to each other. Conferences are a marvellous opportunity for human networking, for establishing new contacts and making new friends. Whilst there will be ample opportunities to talk over coffee and lunches, we have included a number of interesting discussions sessions to be held in Room 1. They focus on information needs in Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Mediterranean. There is a special session for participants from Environment Libraries, and also a Panel Discussion on Institutional Leadership Roles and Opportunities. I encourage you to take the opportunity to share your thoughts and views in these sessions.

Once again, on behalf of Euraslic, welcome to Europe, Welcome to this Joint Conference, I hope that at the end of the week you will all go away enthused and refreshed with new ideas, useful contacts and new friends.

